

6.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The effects of the Proposed Action when combined with the effects of other actions discussed in this section do not result in cumulatively significant impacts. Cumulative effects are caused by the aggregate of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes them. These effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7). The cumulative effect analysis in the LANL SWEIS already documents the regional effect of the expanded operations alternative and provides context for this EA. This section considers the Proposed Action and its possible effects on resources as relates to any ongoing or reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Several resources were dismissed from cumulative effects consideration because they would not be affected by the Proposed Action and could not contribute collectively to ongoing or reasonably foreseeable actions (see Table 1). These resources were land use, floodplains and wetlands, cultural, socioeconomic, environmental justice, water resources (ground and surface), visual, biological, and traffic and transportation. Five other resources analyzed in this EA would not contribute significantly to cumulative effects, because the Proposed Action would not have major long-term or irreversible effects on water quality, geology (and soils), noise, and human health.

Air quality, waste management, and environmental restoration are discussed further in this section. This analysis concludes that there would not be cumulatively significant effects on these resources. Moreover, some positive effects to resources, including utilities and infrastructure, and environmental restoration would occur as a consequence of the Proposed Action to install and operate CTGs in the TA-3 Co-generation Complex.

Air Quality The Proposed Action would not result in cumulatively significant impacts to air quality at LANL. There are no future actions likely to occur at LANL that might cause cumulative effects in the area of the Proposed Action. LANL is proposing to install an eastern bypass road in the vicinity of the Proposed Action; however, effects to air quality from construction and excavation activities would be temporary and localized.

Under both Option A and Option B of the Proposed Action, controls would be implemented to maintain NO_x emissions below the PSD permitting thresholds and ensure that the NO_x emission limit in the NSPS for gas turbines would be achieved. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in a cumulative adverse effect on air quality at LANL.

Environmental Restoration There is one SWMU within the Proposed Action area. This PRS would be sampled, characterized, and remediated before installation of the CTGs. Wastes generated by this remediation effort would be handled in accordance with applicable RCRA procedures and regulations and transferred to appropriate waste management facilities. When added to the much larger volume of ER-generated waste at LANL, the Proposed Action would not contribute to significant adverse cumulative effects.

Waste Management The Los Alamos County Landfill is located adjacent to the eastern bypass road component of the Proposed Action, and there are plans for its closure in the next five years.

Part of the site could continue being used as a transfer station and recycling facility. LANL and the county are studying new landfill sites or alternate means of sanitary waste disposal at this time, and NNSA will develop an appropriate NEPA strategy. Waste generation is expected to be minimal for the Proposed Action; overall waste generation at LANL and Los Alamos County, both from decontamination and demolition of buildings and through environmental restoration efforts could be large during the next 10 years. Construction and demolition wastes would be recycled and reused to the extent practicable. Existing waste treatment and disposal facilities would be used according to specific waste types. Solid wastes would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill or other appropriate permitted solid waste landfills. Demolition wastes would be disposed of similarly at appropriate permitted facilities.